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May 1.

The President, Dr. **Ruschenberger**, in the chair.

Forty-one members present.

A paper entitled "Notes on the Natural History of Fort Macon, N. C., and Vicinity, No. 3," by Dr. H. C. Yarrow, was presented for publication.

May 8.

The President, Dr. **Ruschenberger**, in the chair.

Thirty-seven members present.

A paper entitled "On the Brain of Chimæra Monstrosa," by Burt G. Wilder, was presented for publication.

On the Placenta of a Monkey.—Dr. H. C. **Chapman** remarked that as it is comparatively rare for monkeys to breed in confinement, and as the opportunity does not often present itself of examining the placenta in these animals, a few remarks on the character of that structure in the *Macacus nemestrinus* might not be considered superfluous. The young monkey, which was born dead in the Zoological Garden, measured 13 inches from snout to tip of tail. As in the case of almost all the old world monkeys or Catarrhines, there were two placentæ, which measured in their largest diameters 3 and 3½ inches respectively, and were discoid in shape. The umbilical cord was 7½ inches in length, and contained one umbilical vein, and two umbilical arteries. Curiously enough in the South American monkeys, while there are two umbilical veins, as well as two arteries in the cord, the placenta is single.

On the Earthy Oxides of Samarskite.—Prof. J. **Lawrence Smith** made some remarks on the anomalous properties of the earthy oxides of samarskite belonging to that class of the earths which are precipitated by a cold concentrated solution of sulphate potash, or sulphate of soda. He gave his reasons for believing that these oxides contain but little if any cerium oxide, and that there is a strong probability of the bulk of it being a new earth. He expressed these views with much caution, because more thorough investigation on larger quantities might possibly prove them to be inaccurate.

On Marbleized Iron.—Mr. **Wm. H. Dougherty** reported the results of his examination of a new article of enamelled iron-ware called "Marbleized Iron," which had recently been extensively sold in this city for cooking and other domestic purposes.

Some of this ware having been introduced into his own household, and hearing reports of the enamel having much lead and arsenic in its composition, he had made the following experiments:—

A pint of good ordinary so-called "White Wine" vinegar was poured into a new dish of this ware, and slowly evaporated nearly to dryness—distilled water was then added, and treated with hydro-sulphuric acid—the resulting precipitate of sulphide of lead was then dissolved in nitric acid, and reprecipitated with sulphuric acid in presence of alcohol as sulphate of lead, and weighed 183 milligrammes, or over 2¾ grains, which result was further confirmed by reducing it to metallic lead with the blowpipe.

This result would indicate that the vinegar had dissolved out of the enamel enough lead to make about *three* grains of acetate of lead.

Into another dish of the same ware was put an ounce of citric acid, dissolved in a pint of distilled water, and boiled for some time, and then treated precisely as the vinegar in the first experiment, resulting in a precipitate of sulphate of lead, weighing somewhat less than that obtained by the vinegar, but showing that the citric acid had dissolved out a corresponding amount of lead from the enamel, as in the first experiment.

These two acids, acetic and citric, were used preferably as those most likely to come in contact with this ware in domestic uses—the first in vinegar, and the other (citric acid) occurring not only in the orange family, but being also present in the free state in gooseberries, currants, cherries, and in the potato and onion.

A can of tomatoes in an acid condition was digested in another dish of this ware and filtered—the filtrate treated as in the former experiments showed slight but positive evidences of the presence of lead.

Arsenic is said to be present in this enamel, but none had been found after repeated trials, both by wet and dry tests.

The stronger acids and caustic alkalies decompose this enamel. A portion of which, detached with considerable trouble, and fused with carbonate of soda in the usual way, yielded about as follows:—

Oxide of lead	12 per cent.
Silica	47 " "
Alumina Iron Lime Potash Soda	41 " "
	100 " "